

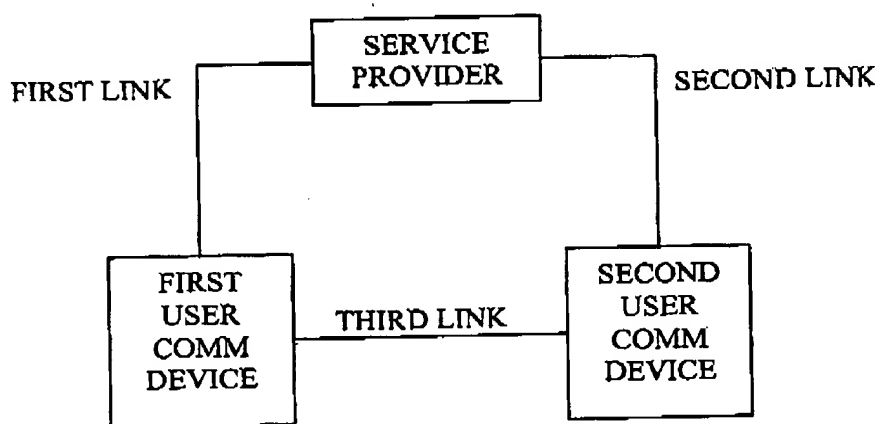
REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application. Claims 1-55 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims and consideration of the following remarks.

Rejections Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

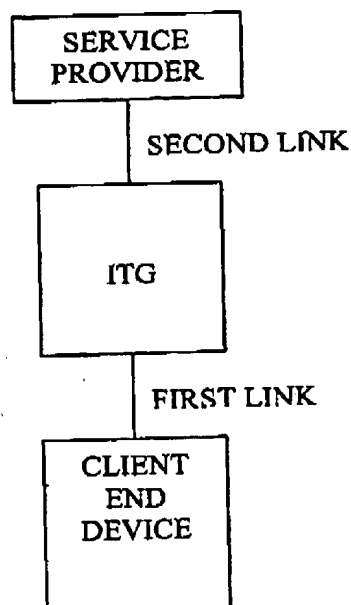
Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 13-14, 16, 18-20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,648 (Voit). Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 requires, in part, a first user communication device configured to communicate with a service provider over a first link. A second user communication device is configured to communicate with the service provider over a second link. It is then determined that the second user communication device needs more bandwidth, beyond that provided by the second link. In response, the second communication device communicates with the service provider over a third link *and* the first link wherein the third link connects the second user communication device with the first user communication device. A brief illustration of claim 1 is provided:



Claim 1 advantageously allows the second user communication device to access, via the third link, the bandwidth provided over the first link to the first user communication device.

In contrast, Voit discloses a standard Internet service connection between an end client device and a service provider via an Internet telephony gateway (ITG). The end client device in Voit does not access a service provider over two distinct connections. An illustration of Voit follows for illustrative purposes:



As can be seen from the illustration above, Voit discloses a client end device accessing the Internet via an Internet Telephony Gateway (ITG). In this case, a first link connects the client end device to the ITG. A second link connects the ITG to the service provider. A third link is not disclosed, as required by claim 1. Furthermore, only one link extends from the client end device. In contrast, claim 1 clearly requires two links extending from the second user communication device- the second link and the third link. The second link connects the second user communication device to the service provider. The third link connects the second user communication device to the first user communication device.

Voit also fails to disclose the second user communication device determining a need for additional bandwidth, as required by claim 1. Rather, Voit discloses an initial call setup process wherein an initial amount of bandwidth is determined. Determining a need for additional bandwidth would occur after the initial amount of bandwidth is

determined. Thus, Voit only discloses determining an initial amount of bandwidth rather than determining a need for additional bandwidth.

The remaining independent claims contain limitations similar to those of independent claim 1 and are therefore allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 1. The remaining dependent claims, while separately allowable over the art of record, depend from otherwise allowable independent claims. Applicant therefore refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims for the sake of brevity. A discussion of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is obviated in view of the discussion distinguishing Voit.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests their allowance.



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